

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
SOUTHERN DIVISION

B. JEAN WEBB,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 98-3306-CV-S-RGC
)	
CITY OF REPUBLIC, MISSOURI,)	
Defendant.)	

DECLARATION OF GAY J. REVI

1. I, Gay J. Revi, am a resident of Springfield, Missouri, and am the Ozarks Chapter Representative to the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas and Western Missouri.

2. At the request of plaintiff's counsel, I obtained a wide variety of merchandise bearing the fish symbol or Ichthus from three Christian bookstores (Baptist Book Store in Springfield, Christian Publisher's Outlet in Springfield, and Discount Bible in Branson, MO) and from a Christian clothing store, Alleluia Apparel in Springfield. These items, which I have not seen in secular bookstores, include a polo shirt, a ball cap, a coffee cup, several key rings, a gift bag, a license plate holder, various types of plastic, stick-on auto emblems, a bumper sticker, a car decal, a book entitled Christian Clip Art Volume 3, pencils, and a few pieces of jewelry. Nearly all these items refer in writing, either in the packaging materials or on the items themselves, to Christ or Christianity. For instance, the packaging for the auto emblems (produced by Harbor House Gifts) contains the following description:

The earliest followers of Jesus were persecuted and forced to worship in hidden locations. Often these believers would scratch the secret symbol of a fish in the ground to help them identify other Christians.

Not only was fish a common food of the day, often used and referenced by Jesus during his ministry, but the letters which make up the Greek word for "fish" (ΙΧΘΥΣ) also spell out a secret message about our Lord. I-Jesus, X-Christ, Y-God's, Θ-Son, Σ-Savior.

The fish symbol transcends differences in cultures and denominations. Throughout generations the fish symbol continues to identify the true followers of Jesus Christ.

3. During visits to Republic I have seen many cars and trucks displaying plastic auto emblems in the shape of the fish. These plastic emblems were identical to the ones I bought in Christian bookstores. I have also seen such fish symbols on cars and trucks throughout Greene County and Southwestern Missouri. Many of the plastic fish symbols I have seen in the vicinity of Republic have contained the word "Jesus" inside the fish symbol; many others have contained a Latin cross in the fish's eye; and others have contained the acrostic, ΙΧΘΥΣ. I have photographed some of the fish symbols I have seen on vehicles in Republic and Greene County, and I have attached copies of representative examples of the symbols I have seen.

4. I am aware that many businesses in Southwest Missouri use the fish symbol in their signs, logos, and advertising. For example, the Christian Publisher's Outlet in Springfield uses the fish symbol on its logo, signage, and newspaper advertising. Furthermore the outdoor signage of Lighthouse Lanes, a bowling alley in Springfield, Missouri, incorporates fish symbols on either side of the exclamation "Jesus is Lord!" On the doors of businesses in Springfield, I have also seen decals of the fish symbol with the letters "WWJD" and the words "What Would Jesus Do" printed on the fish. I have attached copies of photographs showing the signs of the Christian Publishers Outlet and Lighthouse Lanes and showing a WWJD decal on the door of a local business.

5. The local Christian radio station, KWFC, 89.1 FM, distributes bumper stickers that display the fish symbol with the station's call letters inside and the words "Your Constant Christian Companion" below. I have frequently seen this bumper sticker displayed on vehicles in Republic specifically and in Greene County generally. I have attached a KWFC bumper sticker as well as a copy of photograph showing a KWFC bumper sticker displayed on a car in Republic.

6. The logo of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks ("the Council"), located in Springfield, uses the fish symbol and a Latin cross in its logo. All of the full members of the Council are Christian churches. According to the Council's 1997 Annual Report, "[t]he Mission of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks is to improve the quality of life through cooperative ecumenical outreach in the name of Jesus Christ." I have attached a copy of the front panel of a brochure showing the Council's logo and a copy of the title page of the Council's 1997 Annual Report.

7. "ICHTHUS . . . a student-led, nondenominational, Christian organization" at Southwest Missouri State University has used the fish symbol on handbills announcing the group's meetings. I have attached a copy of a handbill distributed by this group during the 1998-99 school year.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct.

Executed in Springfield, Missouri, on 22 April 1999.

/s Gay J. Revi